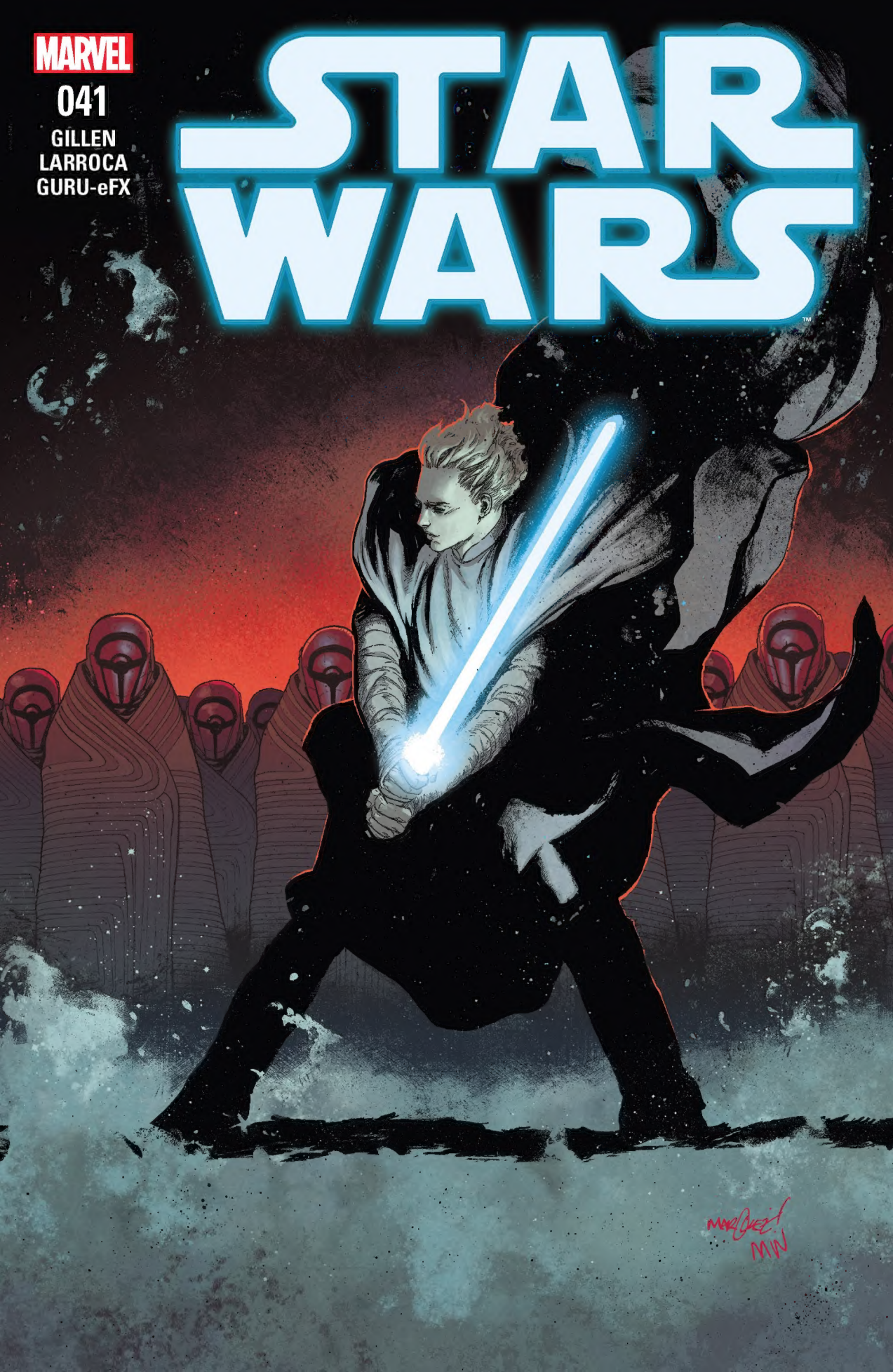
MARVEL
041
GILLEN
LARROCA
GURU-eFX
STAR WARS

Part IV

THE ASHES OF JEDHA

It is a period of high tension in the galaxy. The Galactic Empire has sent Queen Trios of Shu-Torun to Jedha in an attempt to collect the remaining weapon-powering kyber crystals that survived the Death Star's attack.

Meanwhile, Rebel leaders Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker, as well as smuggler Han Solo, joined forces with the surviving members of Saw Gerrera's Partisans, led by the Tognath named Benthic. Together, they have taken up the task of destroy the Empire's orbital drill threatening to endanger the lives and homes of the struggling civilians.

Elsewhere, Skywalker has joined Chulco Gi to meet the Cult of the Central Isopter and further explore the power of the Force....

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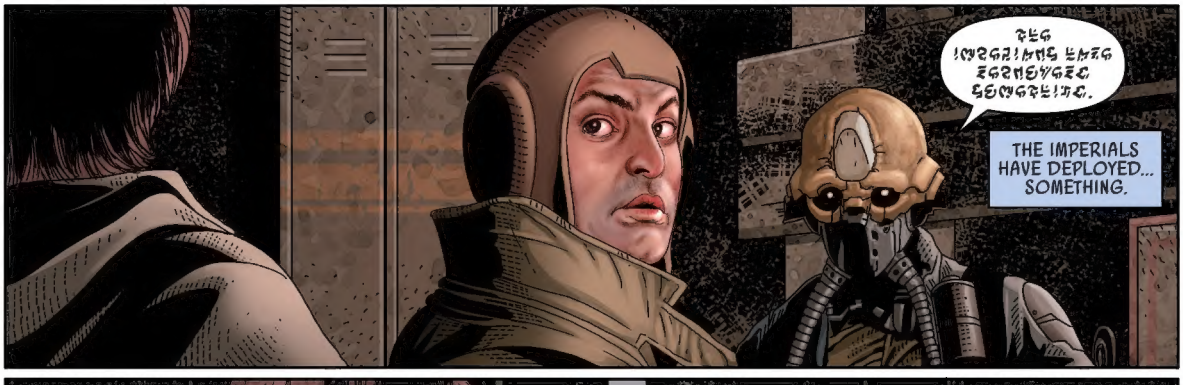
The edge of the blast crater, Jedha.
BEHOLD.
THE ULTIMATE TEMPLE OF THE CENTRAL ISOTOPER.

IT WILL LIVE ONLY FOR THE FEW BRIEF YEARS THIS WORLD HAS LEFT. IT IS THE GREATEST TEMPLE IN OUR HISTORY.
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH A DESECRATION. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH DEATH TO OBSERVE. IT WILL TEACH YOU MUCH...
WAIT... "IT"? AREN'T YOU MEANT TO BE THE TEACHERS?
ISN'T--
OH, NO. THE... DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE, CHULCO. AGAIN.
ARGHH!
LUKE! PUSH THROUGH IT!
THE WAVES WILL GROW STRONGER AS WE APPROACH THE DESECRATION.
THIS...THIS IS THE WORST PLACE IN THE GALAXY.
THERE WE GO, SKYWALKER.
YOUR FIRST LESSON.
LOOK...
IT'S LIKE...A HUGE METEOR. BUT IT'S TOO SLOW.
WHAT IS IT?
WHILE YOU ARE HERE, PILGRIM?
IT IS OF NO CONCERN.

The Partisans' base.
NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY SPARE DIODES! I NEED ALL MY DIODES!
I DON'T CARE WHAT BROKE WHEN THERE WAS THAT AWFUL EARTHQUAKE!
BLEEOOP?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU "DON'T THINK IT WAS AN EARTHQUAKE," ARTOO?!

BENTHIC, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS THING. IT'S ENORMOUS. IT'S NOT LIKE--

HEY, WE HEARD THE COMMOTION. SO... WHAT'S THE NEXT MESS YOU WANT US TO DEAL WITH?
HAN, WILL YOU PLEASE!
I'M SORRY, BENTHIC. WHAT'S WRONG?


THE IMPERIALS HAVE DEPLOYED... SOMETHING.

HEY, DON'T BE TOO GRIM. WE SCRAPPED THEIR LAST TOY.
LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK-SEE AT THE FANCY-PANTS SOON-TO-BE-JUNKED SECRET WEAPON.

OKAY, THIS MAY BE HARDER.
IT'S THE SIZE OF A CITY! WHAT IS THAT THING EVEN DOING?
IT'S STRIP-MINING ON A MASSIVE SCALE.
I...HAD BEEN WARNED SHU-TORUN HAD A CONTINENT-CLASS CRAWLER. I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D ACTUALLY DEPLOY IT.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO STOP IT. NO IDEA AT ALL.
UBIN PLANS TO BURROW AHEAD OF ITS PATH. THEY'LL EMERGE, MINE ITS TRACKS, AND IMMOBILIZE IT.
ARE YOU KIDDING, BENTHIC?
THERE'S NO WAY ANY CHARGE WE'VE GOT CAN DENT THAT!
WE WILL SEE, SOLO.
HER TEAM HAS ALREADY DEPLOYED.

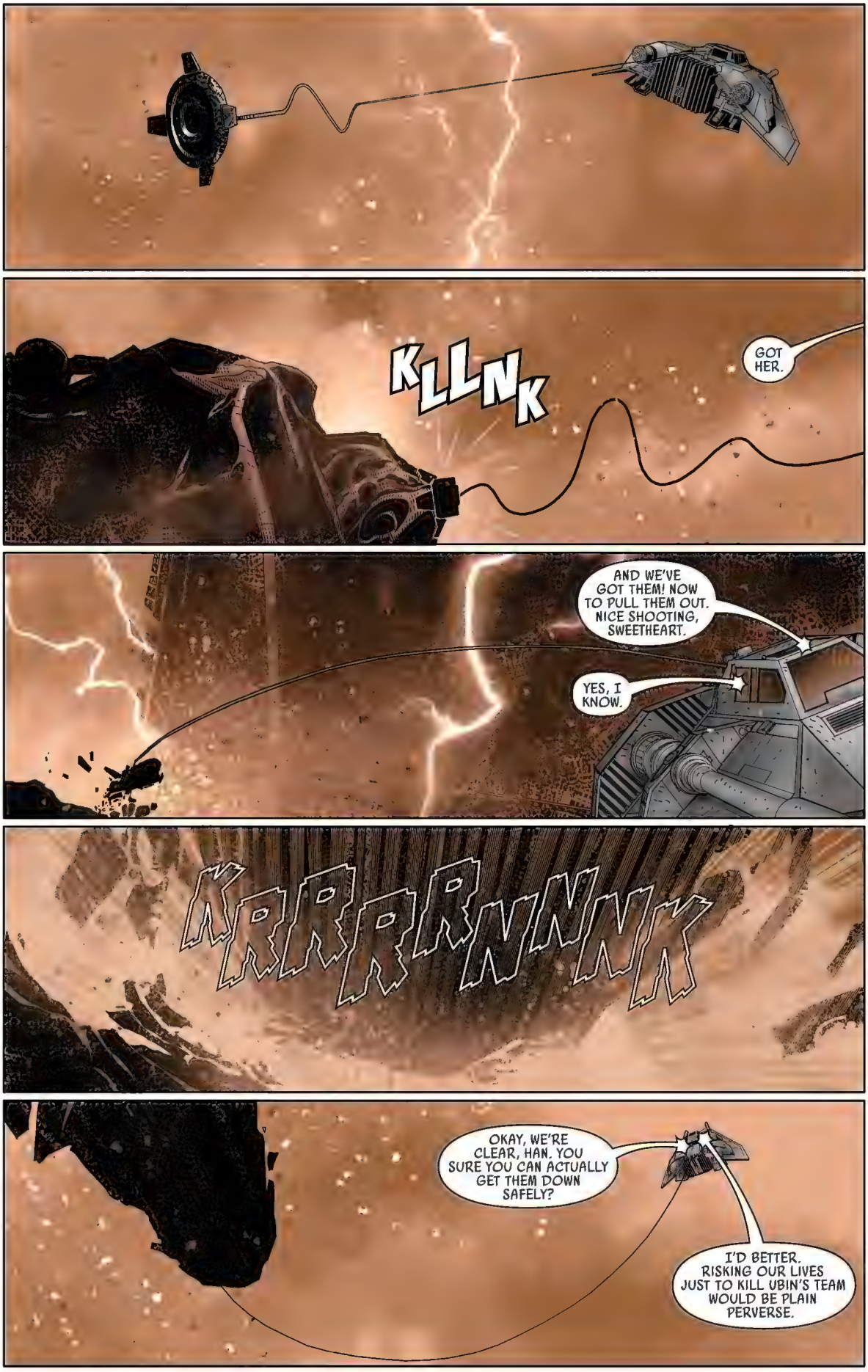
DEATH IS THE ANSWER TO ALL QUESTIONS.
WE ALL LIVE AT THE EDGE. ONE STEP, WE ARE GONE... BUT WHILE WE ARE HERE, WE LIVE.
WE WATCH THE ABYSS AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND IT. THIS TEMPLE MAKES OUR PHILOSOPHY CONCRETE, REAL. THIS IS HOW THE GALAXY IS. IT FOCUSES ALL THAT IS DARK AND UNDENIABLE.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO TEACH YOU. IT IS WHAT WILL TEACH YOU.
DEATH HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE. DEATH OF A WORLD. DEATH OF YOUR FAMILY. DEATH OF YOUR FRIENDS. DEATH OF YOUR TEACHERS...
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

IT IS CLEAR.
IT IS CLEAR FOR BOTH YOU PILGRIMS.
CHULCO, I'M NOT SURE. I WANT TO BE A JEDI, NOT WHATEVER'S GOING ON HERE!
AND I WANTED TO BE A DISCIPLE! BUT... THIS IS A PATH.
MAYBE IT LEADS TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE? THE FORCE GUIDES US IN ALL THINGS.
IT IS WISDOM. IT WILL TEACH YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.
MEDITATE. LISTEN TO THE CALL OF THE CHASM.
AND WITH THE JEDI GONE, THIS IS ALL THERE IS.
WOULD YOU HAVE THE INSIGHT OF THE ABYSS, OR WOULD YOU HAVE NOTHING?

OKAY, THEY'RE NEARLY ON TOP OF US.
ON MY MARK...
GO!
ATTACHED, UBIN!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WE'RE CLEAR. SET OFF THE--
NO!

PLEASE.
PLEASE.
TAKE THAT, IMPERIAL--
NO EFFECT.

CAN YOU FLY AN AIRSPEEDER, HAN?
I CAN FLY ANYTHING. WHICH IS LUCKY, CONSIDERING WHAT WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO DO...
JUST BE READY, PRINCESS. YOU MESS THIS UP, AND UBIN GETS CRUSHED BY THAT THING!
OKAY... OKAY...

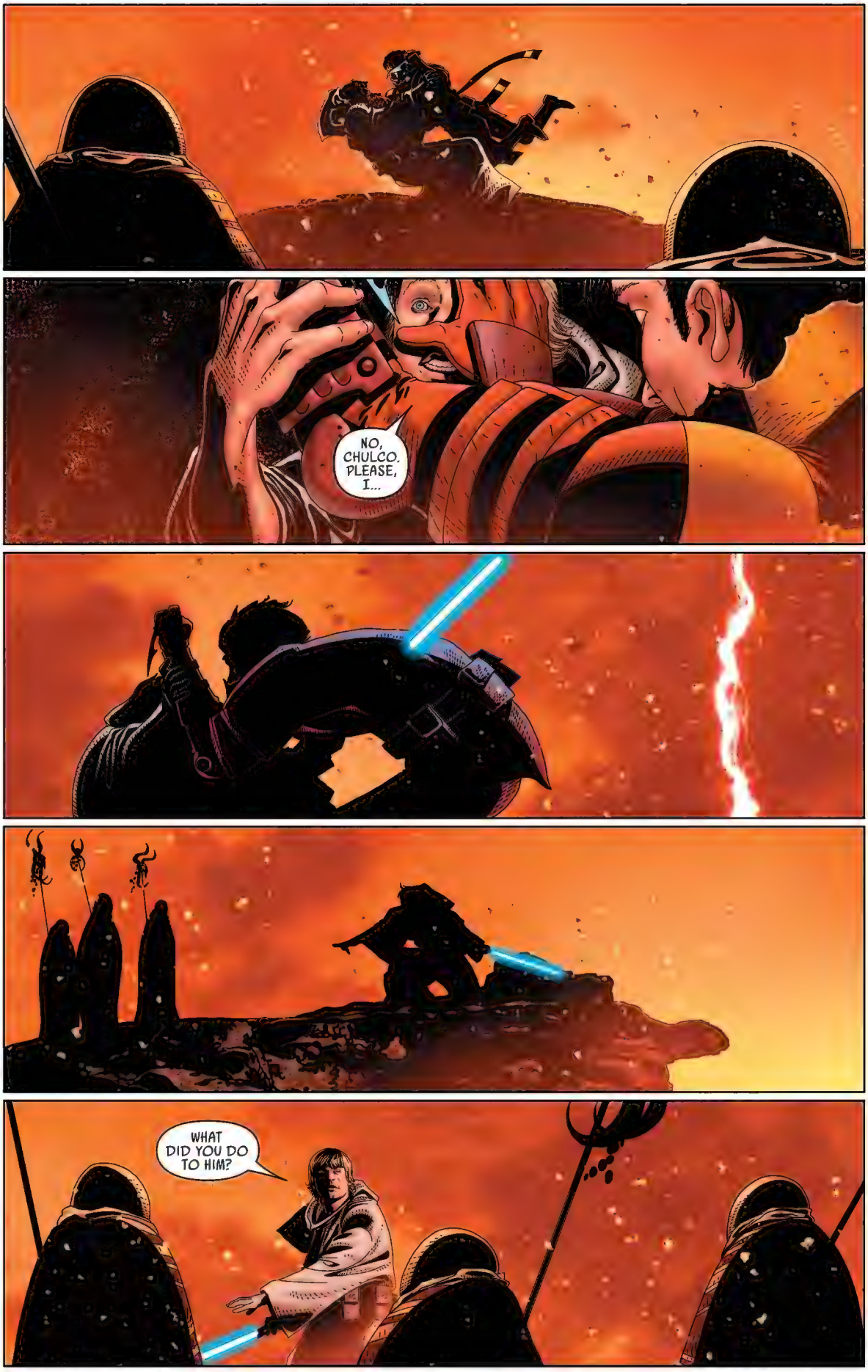

KLLNK
GOT HER.
AND WE'VE GOT THEM! NOW TO PULL THEM OUT. NICE SHOOTING, SWEETHEART.
YES, I KNOW.
KRRRRNNNK
OKAY, WE'RE CLEAR, HAN. YOU SURE YOU CAN ACTUALLY GET THEM DOWN SAFELY?
I'D BETTER. RISKING OUR LIVES JUST TO KILL UBIN'S TEAM WOULD BE PLAIN PERVERSE.

UBIN! WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING?*
WE...WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE SACRIFICES.
WE ONLY GIVE OURSELVES UP WHEN THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE, GET IT? YOU'RE WORTH MORE THAN THROWING YOURSELF AWAY ON SOME FOOL PLAN.
I'LL TELL YOU HOW ***WE*** SAVE THE GALAXY! WE DON'T ALL DIE BEFORE WE SAVE THE GALAXY!
WHAT OTHER OPTION DO WE HAVE? THESE ARE DESPERATE TIMES. WE ONLY HAVE SUCH ACTIONS...
WE HAVE A FRIEND COMING. WHEN HE GETS HERE...WELL, WE MAY HAVE A SUICIDE MISSION WORTH GOING ON.

Nejedha space.
GHGHHHHHH!
HHHHRRRHHH!
STAY QUIET, CHEWBACCA. WE CAN GET THROUGH.
UNKNOWN SHIP, YOU ARE TRESPASSING...
HEY, SORRY FOR THE DELAY. JUST GETTING THE CODES READY. I HAVE CLEARANCE FOR THE SECTOR. SENDING OVER NOW...
THE PLANET IS NOW QUARANTINED, AND YOU ARE TRESPASSING.
WELL, WE'LL TURN AROUND AND--

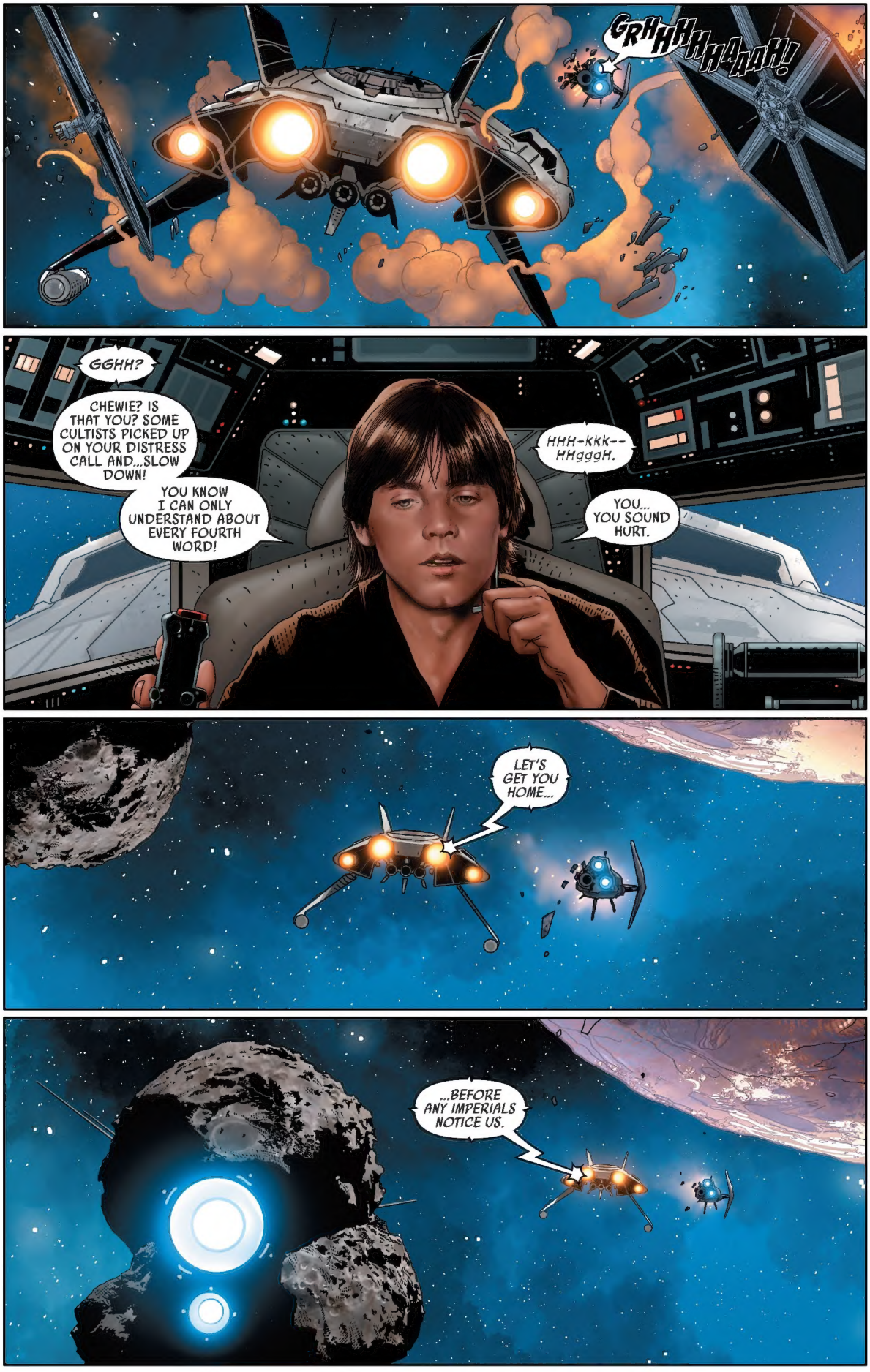
HHHHGGGH!
hhhff.
Grrrhh.
HrrrhhhhGGh.
ILLEGAL TRADER--YOUR ENGINES ARE DAMAGED. GIVE UP.
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE.

YOU HAVE GAZED INTO THE ABYSS, SKYWALKER.
WILL YOU HEED ITS CALL?
I... WANT TO UNDERSTAND MYSELF SO MUCH.
BUT I KNOW THERE ARE ROADS I CAN'T WALK DOWN WITHOUT LOSING MYSELF...
I HAVE TO THINK SOME MORE.
VERY WELL. AND YOU, CHULCO?
YOU HAVE GAZED INTO THE ABYSS.
WILL YOU HEED ITS CALL?
I...
I...
I HAVE.


NO, CHULCO. PLEASE, I...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?

LUKE...IT WAS NOT THEM. IT WAS THIS PLACE.
IT WAS A MADNESS. I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH. I WANTED IT SO BADLY.
I TOOK ONE STEP AND A BOTTOMLESS FALL.
THE DARK SIDE. IT'S THERE. IT'S SO STRONG. THE RISK IS NOT WORTH IT.
...W... W...
I'M SORRY, CHULCO.
I'M JUST BLUNDERING AROUND IN THE DARK... I'M RISKING EVERYTHING. I COULD END UP LIKE CHULCO!
I HAVE TO BE PATIENT. I MAY NEVER BE A JEDI. I HAVE TO BE OKAY WITH THAT.
YOU LEARN THE ONLY LESSON WE HAVE TO TEACH. THE DARK SIDE IS PERILOUS.
THE ROAD CHULCO AND YOU WERE ON LEADS ONLY TO MADNESS. WITHOUT A TRUE GUIDE, YOU WILL FALL. WE ARE NOT THEM. THEY ARE GONE.
YOU CANNOT FALL. TOO MUCH RELIES ON YOU.
YOUR FRIENDS NEED YOU.
I KNOW. I HAVE TO LISTEN TO LEIA. I'VE RISKED SO MUCH ON CHASING MY PERSONAL STORY WHEN THE REBELLION NEEDS--
NO, PILGRIM.
YOU MISUNDERSTAND.
WE MEAN LITERALLY.

GRGRHRHRRR!
GGHRRRAAARRR!
AND THIS IS FOR WASTING MY TIME.


GRHHHHHHADAH!
GGHH?
CHEWIE? IS THAT YOU? SOME CULTISTS PICKED UP ON YOUR DISTRESS CALL AND...SLOW DOWN!
YOU KNOW I CAN ONLY UNDERSTAND ABOUT EVERY FOURTH WORD!
HHH-KKK--HHgggH.
YOU... YOU SOUND HURT.
LET'S GET YOU HOME...
...BEFORE ANY IMPERIALS NOTICE US.

CHEWIE!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF?
Ggrhhhhhhhhhhh!
THANK YOU, CHEWIE. I KNEW I COULD DEPEND ON YOU.
WHATEVER THAT IS BETTER BE WORTH THE MESS IT'S LEFT HIM IN, PRINCESS. WHAT IN THE HELL IS IT?
IT'S FROM SHU-TORUN. SOMETHING I'M SURE *THEY* WOULDN'T WANT US TO SEE...
SOMETHING THAT COULD MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE...

STAR WARS™
NEXT ISSUE:

Tour
THE SEVEN SEAS
With
BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE
Call 555-FISH